

UC Agriculture & Natural Resources

4-H, Youth and Family (includes home livestock)

Title

4-H Rabbit Project

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Authors

Borba, John
Diaz, Claudia
Horowitz, Marcel
et al.

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4-H RABBIT PROJECT



In the rabbit project youth can learn about selecting and raising a rabbit. Youth learn about the breeds, characteristics, and sound care and management practices.

- Learn the basic principles of animal science by owning, caring for, and keeping records on rabbits.
- Explore knowledge of sound breeding, feeding, and management practices.
- Investigate marketing, project expansion, and how you can start a career in the rabbit business. Learn how to market the animals and products for breeding, fur, meat, or pets.

4-H THRIVE

Help Youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to help them reach higher levels of success.

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek help from others. What are youth going to do when things get in their way?

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their character or establish connections.

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Gather information and determine the best rabbit for your family.
- Determine the purpose of your rabbit projects.
- Develop a rabbit care management plan.
- Identify rabbit equipment and their uses.
- Locate and name parts of a rabbit.
- Learn proper feeding.
- Learn proper grooming.
- Discover proper rabbit showmanship steps.

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Learn the different types of breeds and their ideal weight.
- Learn and explain judging criteria for rabbit health.
- Learn the difference between 4-Class breed and 6-Class breed rabbit shows.
- Explore rabbit body types and their functions.
- Design a plan for preparing rabbits for show.
- Practice or learn how to tattoo rabbits.
- Learn about diseases and environment concerns.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Learn about rabbit breeding programs and genetics.
- Design a rabbitry.
- Manage your rabbitry.
- Learn palpation techniques to determine pregnancy.
- Identify bones on a rabbit skeleton.
- Evaluate rabbit health.
- Complete rabbit pedigree and registration papers.
- Market your rabbits to others.

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Expand Your Experiences!

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Research the nutritional needs of rabbits and compare to nutritional needs of other animals.
- Explore the need for biosecurity measures when handling animals. Create a list of recommendations for competitive rabbit events.
- Design and test various habitats to find the one that works best for your rabbit.

Healthy Living

- Discuss the necessity of washing your hands before and after handling your rabbit.
- Discuss your rabbit's life expectancy and what to look for when they get older.
- Create a display or skit on rules for rabbit safety.

Citizenship

- Use the confidence obtained through shows and expos in all aspects of life.
- Use your animal as therapy for sick and disadvantaged individuals.
- Create a presentation or book on the origin of the "lucky rabbit foot." Present to a group.
- Work with a local animal shelter to help with rabbit adoptions or "dumping."

Leadership

- Become a role model for others by taking the position of Junior or Teen Leader in your project.
- Recruit younger youth into a 4-H rabbit project.

Resources

- Healthy Pets
www.cdc.gov/healthypets
- University of Illinois Pet Columns
vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_columns
- American Vet Med Association
www.avma.org/firstaid/procedures.asp
- American Red Cross: Pet First Aid/ CPR
www.redcross.org/pets
- California State Fair
www.castatefair.org
- American Rabbit Breeders Association
www.arba.net

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program does not endorse, warrant, or otherwise take responsibility for the contents of unofficial sites.

Connections & Events

Presentation Days – Share what you've learned with others through a presentation.

Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

County Fair - Enter your rabbit (s) and show the judge what you have learned in showmanship!

Contact your UC Cooperative Extension office to determine additional opportunities.

Curriculum

- Rabbit Curriculum
<http://shop4-h.org>
- Official Guidebook to Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies
www.arba.net
- Learning Lab Kit: Rabbit
ohio4h.org/books-and-resources/learning-lab-kits/rabbit
- Rabbits: From the Animals Point of View
<http://4h.ucanr.edu/Resources/Curriculum/FREE/>

4-H Record Book

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

To access the 4-H Record Book online, visit
<http://ucanr.edu/orb/>



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Author of 4-H Rabbit Project Sheet: Marcel Horowitz

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University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Communication Services
2801 Second Street
Davis, CA 95618
Telephone 1-800-994-8849
E-mail: anrcatalog@ucanr.edu

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California 4-H Project Sheet Series Authors

JOHN BORBA, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Kern County; CLAUDIA DIAZ, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside and San Bernardino counties; MARCEL HOROWITZ, Healthy Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Yolo County; ANNE IACCOPUCCI, 4-H Healthy Living Academic Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; SHANNON KLISCH; UC CalFresh Community Education Supervisor, UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo County; KENDRA LEWIS, 4-H Evaluation Academic Coordinator, California State 4-H Office; KATHERINE SOULE, Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor and Director of UC Cooperative Extension, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties; and STEVEN WORKER, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties.

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